



# NEWS RELEASE

**Arizona House of Representatives**

**Representative Joanne Osborne (R-13)**

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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**Thursday, July 2, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Rep. Osborne Responds to Death of Vanessa Guillen

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Representative Joanne Osborne (R-13) today issued a statement regarding the death of Army Specialist Vanessa Guillen, a soldier who went missing from the Fort Hood base in Texas where she was stationed. She was last seen in the parking lot of her barracks on April 22, 2020. Before Guillen went missing, she informed her family that she was being sexually harassed by one of her sergeants at Fort Hood.

**“My heart is aching for Vanessa Guillen and her family. We must have justice for her and others like her who suffer from harassment and violence.**

**“We are proud and thankful for the freedoms our military has fought and sacrificed for us all, but there have been cases where our women heroes have suffered. This is not acceptable, and I am in full support of the investigation into each and every misdoing.**

**“If you know someone who is experiencing sexual harassment and/or domestic violence, it’s important to support them and share resources that are available. Nationally, and in Arizona, we’re blessed to have a robust array of support and services for [military](#) and the [general public](#).”**

On Wednesday Guillen’s family reported that her body had been found near Fort Hood. The main suspect in the case, a fellow soldier, killed himself the same day after being confronted. Another suspect, the estranged wife of a Fort Hood soldier, is being held at the local jail.

[Sexual assault in the U.S. military has increased](#) over the past two years, [according to a report](#) from the Defense Department.

Representative Osborne currently serves as Vice Chair of the House Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

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